

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9 are pending in the application and were rejected.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fredlund in view of Schroeder and Roberts. A preliminary amendment dated July 30, 2004 was filed in the patent office. Amended claim 1 deleted the term "size", but does not have the claim objections noted by the Examiner to the preamble of claim 1. In Applicant's file, the word "image" was not deleted. The Abstract has also been amended as suggested by the Examiner. If there is still a problem, applicants would appreciate a telephone call to the number listed below, so that any minor difficulty can be corrected.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim in the present application, and requires that a user provide a high resolution digital image to a memory at a first location. The service provider displays information at the first location of at least two different image bearing products that require different resolution digital images. The user selects the desired image bearing product. In response to this selection, the high resolution digital image is converted to a lower resolution image and subsequently sent to the service provider, which then produces the selected product.

The Examiner is correct when he states that "Fredlund does not disclose the user providing a high resolution digital image, the service provider communicating the resolution required for the selected image bearing product. He does also does not disclose, responsive to the communicated required resolution automatically converting at the first location the high resolution digital image to a lower resolution digital image corresponding to the selected image bearing product, sending the lower resolution digital image from the first location to the service provider and utilizing the lower resolution digital image to produce the selected image bearing product".

Roberts discloses an electronic still camera that provides digital image files to be used by computers for various purposes. As described in column 5 lines 13-32 of Roberts, the electronic still camera includes a resolution switch (14A in Fig. 6) that is read by the CPU 20 (Fig. 7) to determine whether the image stored on the data diskette 50 has a high, a medium., or a low resolution.

This setting determines how many images can be stored on the data diskette 50. Schroeder discloses a method for rapidly resizing digital images.

The Examiner's position is that the motivation for combining Fredlund with Roberts is that the service provider no longer needs to develop negatives or scan images into a digital format. Applicants believe the Examiner is using hindsight, since there is no disclosure or motivation for combining these references with Fredlund.

Nevertheless, assuming for the sake of argument that these references are combined, there is still no suggestion of the present invention. In the electronic still camera of Roberts, all of the camera settings, including the resolution switch setting, are set prior to capturing an image. Therefore, the captured image is stored at the desired high, medium or low resolution as the image is captured. There is no teaching or suggestion that this stored image can be resized after it is stored on the data diskette 50 shown in Fig. 2A of Roberts. Thus, Roberts does not teach or suggest a method for automatically converting a high resolution image to a lower resolution image required by the selected product.

Schroeder teaches methods for rapidly resizing images, but likewise does not provide any teaching or disclosure of a method for automatically converting a high resolution image to a lower resolution image based on the selected product.

The combination of Fredlund, Roberts and Schroeder therefore does not disclose, suggest, or provide any motivation for the subject matter of amended claim 1. In particular, it does not teach or disclose the user selection of an image bearing product from a plurality of different image bearing products having different resolution requirements. Moreover, there is nothing in the combination of these references that teaches or suggests a service provider communicating the resolution requirement of a selected product to a remote location, let alone resizing the high resolution image at the remote location to provide the required resolution image for the selected product.

If there are any issues to discuss, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call at (585) 477-4653.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Owens', written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.